6: Sauer--123 G-5 (1785-94) 1802 Yakut
116, 685, 695, 825, 756

"If an accusation be laid against any by his companion, of having stolen and eaten or killed cattle, he must either pay for the same, receive a flogging (which is very disgraceful), or take an oath of his innocence; and, should an innocent man be accused, he will, in general, rather pay for them than take the stipulated oath, which is administered with the following ceremony:

A magician [RCH: i.e., the shaman] places his tambour and dress before the fire, the embers of which are burning. The accused stands before it, facing the sun, and says: 'May I lose during my life all that
'man holds dear and desirable, father, mother, wives, children,
'relations; all my possessions and cattle; the light of the sun,
'and then my own life; and may my spirit sink to eternal mi-
'sery (mung taar), if I be guilty of the charge laid against me!'
The magician throws butter on the hot embers; the man accused must then step over the tambour and dress, advance to the fire, and swallow some of the exhaling smoke from the butter; then, looking to the sun, say, 'If I have sworn false, deprive me
'of thy light and heat.' Some of the tribes close the ceremony by making the accused bite the head of a bear; because they allow this beast to have more than human wisdom, and suppose that some bear will kill the aggressor."